

ACTION RESEARCH IN EDUCATION

SECOND EDITION

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the understandings that emerge from the processes of inquiry are successfully applied to actions within the research setting. It becomes immediately evident that the features on which the research has focused are adequate to account for the phenomena investigated.

SUMMARY

Establishing Validity

The validity of action research is verified through procedures establishing credibility, transferability, dependability, confirmability, degrees of participation, and utility. These are attained through:

1. *Prolonged engagement*: The duration of the research processes.
2. *Persistent observation*: The number and duration of observations and interviews.
3. *Triangulation*: All sources of data, including the settings observed, the stakeholders interviewed, and materials reviewed.
4. *Participant debriefing*: Processes for reviewing research procedures.
5. *Negative case analysis*: Processes for ensuring that a diversity of interpretations is explored.
6. *Referential adequacy*: How terminology within the study is drawn from participant language and concepts.
7. *Member checks*: Procedures for checking the accuracy of data, and the appropriateness of data analysis and reporting.
8. *Transferability*: The inclusion of detailed descriptions of the participants and the research context.
9. *Dependability*: Detailed description of the research process.
10. *Confirmability*: The data available for review.
11. *Participation*: The extent of stakeholder participation in the research process.
12. *Utility*: Practical outcomes of the research process.